

October 2018

## Marple U3A Committee Members 2017-2018

|   |                             |          |
|---|-----------------------------|----------|
| Chair - Jacqui Airey:                               | chairmanmarple@gmail.com    | 637 5098 |
| Secretary - Sally D:                                | secretarymarple@gmail.com   | 456 7359 |
| Treasurer - Phil Ridgway:                           | treasurermarple@gmail.com   | 427 6007 |
| Membership Secretary - Carol Culley:                | membershipmarple@gmail.com  | 221 1237 |
| Group Coordinator - Hazel Meakin                    | coordinatormarple@gmail.com | 427 7343 |
| IT and newsletter - David Jones:                    | webmastermarple@gmail.com   | 449 8168 |
| Charity link - Cynthia Pitts:                       |                             | 465 0492 |
| Newsletter – Olga Henner                            |                             |          |
| Vice-chair & Beacon Admin – Graeme Mould            |                             | 221 2805 |
| Speaker Secretary – Maria Henderson & Jacky Fantom: |                             |          |

It's now autumn, the summer bowlers have put away their woods and our thoughts turn to the long dark days of winter – and Christmas. Looking forward to that time of year we have arranged the Marple & District U3A Christmas lunch. There will be a change of venue and this year the lunch will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> December at Marple Golf Club. There is a menu attached to the end of this newsletter.

On the subject of Christmas - for the last two years Marple U3A has collected items to donate to a Stockport food bank in time for Christmas. As well as food items (tins, packets, long life milk, cereals etc) non-food items are welcome such as household cleaning materials, toiletries, sanitary products and baby items. This collection will take place at the December meeting and any donations will be very gratefully received.

Fire drill - It was noticed during the practice of fire drill that some people were missing at the assembly count. Perhaps taking the opportunity to nip along to the shops?

**It should be reminded that although on this occasion the drill was only a practice, during a real evacuation it is essential that all should be accounted for.**

If, during a meeting you wish to leave early, please inform Mavis Lewis or one of her colleagues at the desk by the hall entrance. This way we will be aware of your absence if there is a fire.

A request has been made by the team who collect the entrance fee to the meetings. Please ensure that you pay with a £1 coin or a note (for which change will be given). The team spend an unnecessary amount of time counting change, so it would make life easier for them if you were to pay as described above.

### **Thoughts on, and around, our 2019 AGM.**

I know March is a long way off but by the time the next newsletter comes out you'll all be busy worrying about Christmas, so please spare a few minutes over the next few months to give some thought to the following.

- 1) Does anyone have any suggestions for next year's Members' Charity? Do you know of, or have experience of, the good work done by a charity in our area which you feel deserves support?
- 2) Is there anything about U3A you would like to ask about at the AGM, or might you propose a resolution for discussion?
- 3) Would any of you be interested in joining next year's committee? If you don't know what's involved, just ask.

Any of the committee would be happy to hear your ideas so please come and have a chat.

Thank you!

I know that some group leaders request emergency contact details as part of the admin of running their particular group. On a recent trip, a medical incident highlighted the need for participants to carry with them an emergency number and details of next of kin. This information should be written on the reverse side of your membership card. In the meantime, stay safe!

Finally, the first fifteen minutes of the November General Meeting will form a Special General Meeting, during which our new constitution will be voted upon. The new constitution was drawn up by the executive and approved by the Third Age Trust. After the vote we will continue into our regular meeting. Please see at the end of the newsletter **Notes on SGM & Constitution Revision** and the first page **Marple & District U3A Constitution. Proposed Revision 2018**. The whole of the proposed new constitution is available online as part of this newsletter.

### **Speaker Meeting - August: Robert Wood – Crystal Power (Fact or Fiction)**

I wasn't sure what to make of this. Was it about rocks? Was it about Christianity and the bible? Was it about science? There was definitely a raffle in there – hang on, a raffle? It's not often – if ever – that one of our speakers offers a raffle as part of the entertainment. However, a raffle was included as part of Robert Wood's talk – more on that later.

Robert, a confirmed Christian and qualified hypnotherapist gave us an insight into the many uses of gemstones and crystals. From computers and lasers to gas lighters and space shuttle windows.

In his talk Robert mentioned the biblical significance of gemstones – the breastplate of the High Priest of Israel contained twelve stones.

Allied to the power of crystals seemed to be the quality of 'knowing' and Robert demonstrated this with the ambiguous picture that was simultaneously an old woman and a young woman. Did you see the old woman or the young? Robert made quite a thing about 'knowing' and suggested that if we were to have a raffle the winner would know they were going to win. Wishful thinking, I guess. I gave my ticket away knowing I wouldn't win. Sure enough, when the winning ticket was drawn it wasn't the one I'd given away – maybe there's something in it!

### **Speaker Meeting – September: Claire Moores - Physick, Pothecary or Chirurgeon?" Uncovering Cheshire's Medical Men and their work**

Our modern age has developed advanced medicine to keep us living longer than ever, yet that wasn't always the case. Claire Moores took us through the journey that brought us to where we are today. Along the way showing us the fascinating practices as the scientific age developed. What was once physick, pothecary, and chirurgeon is now medicine, pharmacy and surgery.

### **Our Members' Charity - 2018/2019:**



SignPost  
STOCKPORT FOR CARERS

## General Meeting Speaker

| Date      | Speaker         | Title   |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| 8 Oct 18  | Peter Turner    | Through the Eyes of a Magician                  |
| 12 Nov 18 | David Templeman | Lady Arabella Stuart – The Queen That Never Was |
| 10 Dec 18 | David Morris    | The Potential of the Human Whistle              |

## New Groups

We are always looking for members to start new groups, as this is a large part of what the U3A is all about. If you are interested in setting up a group – maybe you have a new idea- please contact **Hazel Meakin**, our Group Coordinator.

## News from our interest groups.

Following the sad news of the death of Jackie Bassett who led the Gardening 4 group It is likely that the group continue but they will need some time to sort out another leader, so for this group contact details to be confirmed.

## Intermediate French, Groups 1 and 2

These are now taking place only once a month. Please see the group timetable, if you are interested in joining.

**Please note, you do not have to have been a U3A member for years before running a group; new members have often started new groups.**

If you are worried about committing yourself on a long-term basis, would you consider running an interest group for ten weeks only? Some hobbies lend themselves to this idea; cake decorating or flower arranging are prime examples. One or two members have expressed an interest in Italian. A course in any of these skills would certainly suit some of our members! Could anyone teach the ukulele?

## **Discussion**

A friendly group where you can put, listen to, points of view on topics chosen by the group: ranging from current affairs, arts, media to any questions you want to explore or have your say on.

## **Summer Bowling**

The summer bowling season ended on the 26th September. We had a most successful season, with 18 members signing up in April to take part.

Overall, throughout the season an average of 12 bowlers took part on Wednesday mornings, a most heartening number. The weather, of course, played a huge part in the success of the season, with only one session throughout the 6 months being lost to rain. In fact the dry hot weather caused the greens to be so fast that much hilarity and sometimes mayhem was the end result.

On the morning of the last day of the season a match between ladies and men resulted in a win for the men, despite the bowling coordinator donning female attire to play with the ladies. Afterwards, an end of season lunch at the Ring O'Bells successfully brought the season to a close with a presentation of "Oscars" to deserving bowlers.

See you all, including new bowlers, next April.

Brian Bircher

## Photography Group

Colour is everywhere, you just have to go out and see it. That's what Ken Orson's photography group did, and the results are magnificent. Thank you all.



## Short Walks for Pleasure

The August walk took the group to a similar starting point as the one we did in June. This time, after taking the 375 bus to the top of the hill through Mellor, we turned South-West following the ridge which gave us brilliant views of the Goyt Valley and a much hazier view of Manchester beyond. After about three quarters of a mile we took a slight detour to look at the newly restored cross at Cobden Edge. Down through the golf course, a patient golfer waiting for us to pass before teeing off.

Through Linnet Clough and by way of an extremely uneven path, down to Roman Lakes. Having reached the low point, we passed the Samuel Oldknow mill dig (now being finessed into a visitor attraction). The walk finished at the top of the long incline at Arkwright Road. Thank you, Pam, for another pleasurable walk.





## MBMU3A WALKING GROUP

### October/November 2018 Walks

|               |                     |    |          |                      |
|---------------|---------------------|----|----------|----------------------|
| Wed Oct 3rd   | Ladder Hill         | 5m | Moderate | Jean Mitchell        |
| Tues Oct 9th  | Haughton Dale       | 5m | Easy+    | Val and Roy Bradshaw |
| Wed Oct 17th  | Ashton Basin        | 4m | Moderate | Judith Lynch         |
| Tues Oct 23rd | Hyde/Werneth Low    | 5m | Moderate | Sheila Stafford      |
| Wed Oct 31st  | TBA                 |    |          | Irene Riley          |
| Tues Nov 6th  | Hollingworth        | 5m | Moderate | Sue Ward             |
| Tues Nov 13th | Etherow/Broadbottom | 6m | Moderate | Val and Roy Bradshaw |
| Wed Nov 21st  | TBA                 |    |          | John Bloor           |
| Tues Nov 27th | Chadkirk            | 6m | Moderate | Judy Rhodes          |

### Walk Grading

**Very Easy:** More or less flat, good surface, few stiles

**Moderate:** Typical of local terrain

**Easy:** Small sections of hill, not too rough, limited stiles

**Moderate + :** More climbing and/or more stiles

**All walks meet IN Brabyns Park for prompt departure at 9.45 am.** Car passengers are asked to contribute 10p per mile to petrol cost.

**Walking safety:** Footwear (walking boots), clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions likely to be encountered. This area is famous for changeable weather so come prepared for all eventualities. Bring your mobile phone and inform the leader of your phone number and that of an emergency contact. Provide your own first aid kit.

**Refreshments:** Bring more than adequate food and drink for the length of walk and weather conditions. Remember delays sometimes occur.

**(D)** Indicates that the walk is some distance away and will therefore take longer. All walks are subject to change.

Please stay with the group unless you have arranged with the leader to do otherwise.

Walking group co-ordinators are Jean Mitchell (0161 221 2304) and Judith Lynch (0161 449 7507).



## Marple & District U3A Trips Group

Thursday November 15<sup>th</sup>, Police Museum Manchester.

Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Arley Hall and Knutsford.

Outing details will, when confirmed be available on our Web site [www.marpleu3a.org.uk](http://www.marpleu3a.org.uk) at our General Meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month and in future Newsletters.

**Contacts:** Jane Rainford 427 3059, Val Clapp 427 4252, Mavis Alsop 427 3818.

Cheques payable to "Marple U3A Social Account"

## Bridgewater Hall – Mid-day Concerts

Thursday November 8<sup>th</sup>

Bridgewater Hall. Scott Brothers Duo. (organ and piano). £8 at Sept. speaker meeting.

Friday November 23<sup>rd</sup>

Bridgewater Hall. Apollo Saxophone Quartet. £8 at Nov. speaker meeting.

Wednesday Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Bridgewater Hall. The Manchester Chamber Choir. £8 at Nov. speaker meeting.

All concerts begin at 1.10 and last about 1 hour.  
You may join us there or take the train and have lunch.

Contact **Sandy Maclean** 0161 483 3743

## Dining Group

The Dining Group is open to any member and usually meets at a local restaurant for a luncheon one month and an evening meal the following month. Restaurants chosen can be hotels, pub restaurants or training establishments at local universities or colleges. Recommendations for venues are always welcomed. Enquiries to Beryl Kent, 0161 427 5591

## Almoner

Please do remember that **Beryl Kent**, is our U3A Almoner. So, if you know of any member who is ill, has been bereaved, or if you think Beryl could help in any way, please let her know and she will contact them, send a card, a plant or flowers, as appropriate, funded by your kind, voluntary donation from those of you who chose to contribute when you renewed your membership. It is important that members know we care about them and miss them, but Beryl does need your help by keeping her informed.

Telephone number: **427 5591**.

### Marple and District U3A Group Activities

#### Monday

|   |                              |                 |              |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Bridge Beginners</b>                   | 2.00-4.00pm Every Monday     | Eric Magee      | 221 2091     |
| <b>Bridge Intermediate</b>                | 1.30-4.00pm Every Monday     | Dorothy Grace   | 427 7974     |
| <b>Canasta</b>                            | 2.00-4.00pm 2nd & 4th Monday | Linda Turton    | 427 0016     |
| <b>Geology</b>                            | 10.00-Noon 3rd Monday        | Mary Howie      | 427 2965     |
| <b>Photography</b>                        | 2.00-4.00pm 3rd Monday       | Ken Orson       | 07880 851833 |
| <b>Play Reading 2</b>                     | 2.00-4.00pm 1st Monday       | Felicity Hancox | 449 8859     |
| <b>Intermediate French</b>                | 10.00-12.00 3rd Monday       | Pam Wakefield   | 427 5794     |
| <b>French Conversation and Discussion</b> | 10.00-12.00 1st Monday       | Jacqui Airey    | 637 5098     |
| <b>Tai Chi</b>                            | 2.00-3.00pm Every Monday     | Joyce Garside   | 430 6503     |

## Tuesday

|                              |             |                 |                 |          |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Creative Writing</b>      | 10.00-12.00 | 1st Tuesday     | Jacky Fantom    | 355 0965 |
| <b>Ballet Appreciation</b>   | 1.45-4.00pm | 3rd or 4th Tues | Wendy Carleton  | 456 1948 |
| <b>Gardening 1</b>           | 10.00-Noon  | 1st Tuesday     | Donald Farthing | 427 3250 |
| <b>Gardening 2</b>           | 2.00-4.00pm | 1st Tuesday     | Brian Marshall  | 427 4522 |
| <b>Play Reading</b>          | 2.00-4.00pm | 3rd Tuesday     | Pauline Henshaw | 494 7780 |
| <b>Poetry and Discussion</b> | 10.00-12.00 | 4th Tuesday     | Ruth Wilbey     | 449 0534 |
| <b>French Intermediate 2</b> | 1.00-2.30pm | 4th Tuesday     | Pam Wakefield   | 427 5794 |
| <b>Scrabble</b>              | 2.00-4.00pm | 2nd Tuesday     | Jean Day        | 427 4149 |
| <b>Guitar</b>                | 10.00-12.00 | Every Tuesday   | Malcolm Melia   | 494 1619 |

## Wednesday

|                              |              |                       |                  |          |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------|
| <b>Summer Bowling</b>        | 10.00-Noon   | Every Weds from April | Brian Bircher    | 427 5472 |
| <b>Folk Appreciation</b>     | 2.00-4.00pm  | 4th Wednesday         | Peter Royle      | 285 0651 |
| <b>German</b>                | 2.30-4.00pm  | 1st Wednesday         | Janet Burridge   | 427 2380 |
| <b>Jazz Appreciation</b>     | 2.00-4.00pm  | 2nd Wednesday         | Brian Strickland | 427 3943 |
| <b>Open Garden Group</b>     | 9.45-12.00   | 2nd Wednesday         | Margaret Hogg    | 449 8571 |
| <b>Poetry</b>                | 2.00-4.00pm  | 2nd Wednesday         | Chris Farnsworth | 427 6080 |
| <b>Table Tennis</b>          | 1.15-3.15pm  | Every Wednesday       | David Wilkinson  | 427 6487 |
| <b>Ballet Appreciation 2</b> | 1.45-4.00pm  | 3rd Wednesday         | Wendy Carleton   | 456 1948 |
| <b>Practical Gardening 4</b> | 2.00 -4.00pm | 4th Wednesday         | TBC              |          |

### Thursday

|                                    |             |                               |               |          |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| <b>English Literature</b>          | 2.00-4.00pm | Thurs after GM                | Joan Charman  | 427 2609 |
| <b>Embroidery</b>                  | 2.00-4.00pm | Alt Thursdays                 | Dorothy Jones | 449 8168 |
| <b>Reading Group</b>               | 10.30-noon  | 2nd Thursday                  | Rhona Hunt    | 449 7470 |
| <b>Short Walks for Busy People</b> | 10.15       | 4 <sup>th</sup> /5th Thursday | Pam Wakefield | 427 5794 |

### Friday

|                              |             |                                     |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Art</b>                   | 9.45 12.45  | Alt Fridays                         | Kath Fraser<br>Maureen Paton | 427 7658<br>427 5430 |
| <b>Ballroom Dancing</b>      | 2.00-4.00pm | Alt Fridays                         | Ann Reynolds                 | 427 3209             |
| <b>Modern Sequence Dance</b> | 2.00-4.00pm | Alt. Fridays                        | Kate Hellar                  | 449 8830             |
| <b>Gardening 3</b>           | 10.00-Noon  | 4th Friday                          | Christine Birchall           | 430 2943             |
| <b>Geology</b>               | 10.00-Noon  | 3rd Friday                          | Mary Howie                   | 427 2965             |
| <b>History of Culture</b>    | 10.00-Noon  | 3rd Friday                          | David Matthews               | 427 0372             |
| <b>Rummikubs</b>             | 2.00-4.00pm | Friday after GM                     | Mavis Alsop<br>Beryl Kent    | 427 3818<br>427 5591 |
| <b>Singing</b>               | 10.00-Noon  | Every Friday                        | T and M Glynn                | 01663 762386         |
| <b>Discussion</b>            | 10.00-Noon  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month | A Tognarelli<br>V Noble      | 317 8313             |

### Other

|                       |         |  |                             |                      |
|-----------------------|---------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Day Trips</b>      | Various |  | Mavis Alsop                 | 427 3818             |
| <b>Dining Out</b>     | Various |  | Beryl Kent<br>Jeanette Webb | 427 5591<br>427 2433 |
| <b>Music Concerts</b> | Various |  | Sandy Maclean               | 483 3743             |

Please send items for inclusion in the next Newsletter to David Jones:

[webmastermarple@gmail.com](mailto:webmastermarple@gmail.com)

As usual, many thanks to Mavis Alsop for producing the printed newsletter.



## Marple and District U3A Christmas Lunch

Wednesday December 12<sup>th</sup> 12.00 to 12.30 at Marple Golf Club

### *Christmas Menu*

#### *Starters*

**A** *Homemade Lightly Spiced Parsnip Soup  
with Roll & Butter*

*Or*

**B** *Chicken Liver Pate with Melba Toast  
& Chutney*

*Or*

**C** *Bubble Battered King Prawns  
served with Salad & Dip*

#### *Mains*

**D** *Roast Cheshire Turkey with all the Trimmings*

*Or*

**E** *Honey Roast Baked Ham with A Light Mustard Sauce*

*Or*

**F** *Beetroot Brie & Walnut Wellington*

*All the above will be served with Duck fat Roast Potatoes  
Glazed Carrots Sprouts with Pancetta*

#### *Sweets*

**H** *Traditional Christmas Pudding & Brandy Sauce*

*Or*

**I** *Ice Cream with Fruit Coulis*

*Or*

**J** *Fruits of the Forest Cheesecake served with Fresh Cream  
Coffee & Mince Pie*

*3 courses £22*



Please circle your choices and return this portion of the document together with payment: £22

**A      B      C      D      E      F      H      I      J**

Please **print** your details.

**NAME:**

**PHONE NUMBER:**

Cash                      Cheque                      (made payable to **Marple U3A Social Account**)

If there are members with whom you wish to share a table please print their names below. The closing date for bookings is Monday **November 13th**. You can send a cheque to **David Jones, 8 Treetops Close, Marple, Sk6 6GD** TEL: 0161 449 8168

## **Special General Meeting to vote on the Proposed 2018 Revision to the Marple U3A Constitution**

The current constitution was adopted by the membership at the AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015. This was based on the model constitution recommended by the Third Age Trust (2012 revision).

The Charity Commission has now decided that clause 3 “the Object Clause”, no longer complies with charity law. All activities carried out by the U3A must be charitable, and within the object clause of its constitution. Also, finance relating to all U3A activities must be included in the U3A annual income and expenditure reported to the Charity Commission. Only activities which fall within the U3A’s charitable objectives will be covered by insurance.

The Third Age Trust has therefore revised the object clause in the model constitution, to define the charitable purpose as being “the advancement of education, and in particular the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development”. The new object clause (now called the Charitable Purpose clause) has the effect of removing the distinction between learning activities and social activities. The Charity Commission now considers that all learning activities have a social element, and all social activities have a learning element.

The Charity Commission has approved the Third Age Trust’s change to the model constitution. Our Executive Committee has revised our constitution to conform with the new model. However, the membership must now vote to accept this at a Special General Meeting. This SGM will take place at the beginning of the Speaker Meeting to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> November. On this day, refreshments will be available as usual from 9.45 a.m., and the Special General Meeting will start at 10.15a.m. The Speaker’s presentation will follow on from the business of the SGM.

The proposed new constitution is attached below. It will also be circulated by email to all members, with the notification of the Special General Meeting.

Please note that the capacity of the hall at Marple Senior Citizens’ Association is limited to 130. Attendance numbers sometimes approach this figure, so please attend early to ensure that you can take part in the SGM and listen to the speaker.

*CONSTITUTION OF MARPLE AND DISTRICT U3A, AN UNINCORPORATED MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION, AND A MEMBER OF THE THIRD AGE TRUST*

THIS IS A CHARITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1109853

This constitution was adopted by the membership at the SGM held on: (date of meeting).

**I certify that this is a true copy**

Signed

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Office

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Date of Certification

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**1. NAME**

The name of the charity is Marple and District U3A, hereinafter referred to as 'The U3A'.

**2. PROPERTY AND ASSETS**

Subject to the matters set out below, The U3A and its property and other assets shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution, by the members of the Executive Committee.

**3. CHARITABLE PURPOSE**

The charitable purpose of The U3A is:

- i. the advancement of education, and in particular the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development, in Marple & District and its surrounding locality.

As The U3A is registered as a charity in England and Wales, the charitable purposes of The U3A may only be

altered with the prior consent of the Charity Commission.

**4. POWERS**

In furtherance of the charitable purposes but not otherwise, the Executive Committee may exercise the

following powers to:

- i. raise funds and to invite and receive contributions for The U3A by any lawful means, provided that in doing so any applicable requirements of the law shall be met;
- ii. receive donations, gifts, endowments, sponsorship, grants, legacies and subscriptions from persons desiring to support The U3A and its charitable purposes and to hold and apply any funds so acquired for the charitable purposes (subject to any restricted funds being applied to the relevant restricted purposes);
- iii. buy, take on lease or in exchange or otherwise acquire, hold and make use of any property (real or personal);
- iv. sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property of The U3A, subject to any consents required by law;
- v. co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities;
- vi. support any charitable organisations with regard to the pursuit of The U3A's charitable purposes;
- vii. appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Executive Committee may think fit;
- viii. organise, promote and participate in conferences, lectures, seminars, courses and educational events;
- ix. publish, supply and make available books, pamphlets, reports, leaflets, journals, instructional matter, educational materials and aids of all kinds, whether in printed, electronic or any other forms;
- x. associate and collaborate with other U3As and groupings of U3As (such as regional associations and networks) and The Third Age Trust in any way;
- xi. do all such other lawful things as are appropriate to the pursuit of the charitable purposes and the delivery of benefit to the public in accordance with the charitable purposes.

## **5. MEMBERSHIP**

- i. Membership of The U3A shall be open to individuals who are in their Third Age and are interested in participating in and furthering the work of The U3A, provided that they agree to abide by this constitution and any membership conditions properly imposed by the Executive Committee and to pay the annual subscription as determined by the Executive Committee and approved by the membership at an Annual or Special General Meeting. No individual may be admitted to membership if the Executive Committee considers that they do not meet these conditions.
- ii. Every individual member shall have one vote.
- iii. Members are bound by and shall observe any membership conditions and any disciplinary code of The U3A.
- iv. The Executive Committee may terminate the membership of any individual:
  - (a) if annual membership or other fees are unpaid one month after the due date;or

- (b) by way of expulsion at the end of a disciplinary procedure for breach of any membership condition or for breach of any disciplinary code of The U3A;

Provided that in the case of proposed expulsion at the end of a disciplinary procedure, the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Executive Committee, accompanied by a friend acting in their personal capacity, who may also speak, or make written representation before a final decision is made.

## 6. HONORARY PRESIDENT

- i. The members of The U3A may (but do not have to) elect an Honorary President at the Annual General Meeting. If they do so, the person so appointed will serve until the next Annual General Meeting. A retiring Honorary President may be re-appointed for a further term. There is no limit on the number of terms that may be served. The Honorary President shall not be deemed a charity trustee and shall not be a member of the Executive Committee but may be invited to attend any Executive Committee meeting at the decision of the Executive Committee and shall be entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting as a guest.

## 7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

- i. The management of The U3A shall be vested in the Executive Committee, which shall be the governing body of The U3A and its board of trustees for the purposes of charity law. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the strategy and policies of The U3A, may exercise all the powers of The U3A and shall deal with the administration, management and control of the affairs and property of The U3A.
- ii. There must be at least five and not more than ten U3A members appointed to the Executive Committee. No person may be proposed for appointment or serve as an Officer or as a non-Officer member of the Executive Committee if they are currently serving as an Officer or non-Officer member of the Executive Committee of any other local U3A.

iii. *Officers*

The Officers are the Chairperson, not more than two Vice-Chairpersons, Treasurer and Secretary. The Officers shall by virtue of holding their office be members of the Executive Committee. An individual may only serve in one Officer role at a time.

iv. *Appointment of Officers*

The Officers shall be appointed by decision of the Executive Committee. The Officers shall be appointed annually, from amongst the Executive Committee members, by decision of the Executive Committee at its first meeting after each Annual General Meeting.

v. *Appointment of other members of the Executive Committee*

At every Annual General Meeting all the members of the Executive Committee, including those serving as Officers, shall retire.

vi. *Terms of office and limits on periods of service*

- (a) Non-Officer members of the Executive Committee have a one-year term of office and may serve not more than three terms.

- (b) Officers other than the Treasurer have a one-year term of office and may serve not more than three terms in a particular Officer role.
- (c) The Treasurer has a one-year term of office and may serve not more than six terms as Treasurer. For the avoidance of doubt, if a Treasurer serves less than this period and ceases to serve as Treasurer, he could be appointed to another Officer role or could serve as a non-Officer.
- (d) Subject to the provisions regarding the Treasurer above, no individual may serve more than a maximum of six years in any combination of Officer roles or any combination of non-Officer member and Officer roles.

vii. *Nomination and election of candidates*

Prior written nomination of any candidate for appointment as a member of the Executive Committee at an Annual General Meeting shall normally be required, made by a proposer and seconder from amongst the membership of The U3A (not being themselves Officers or non-Officer members of the Executive Committee), to be in the hands of the Secretary of The U3A at least 28 days before the meeting. Should nominations exceed vacancies, the decision about appointments shall be taken by ballot. Otherwise, nominations of candidates and the conduct of voting for appointments shall be dealt with in accordance with the Standing Orders of The U3A or as determined by the Executive Committee. However, if there are insufficient candidates standing for the vacancies, the Chairperson of the meeting may, as a last resort, appeal for any willing member present to agree to stand. A vote must be taken and carried by a simple majority for such an appeal for volunteers at the meeting to be permitted. Any willing candidate may then offer himself/herself and be proposed to the meeting for appointment in accordance with the Constitution.

viii. *Casual vacancies – Officers and Executive Committee*

The Executive Committee may fill any vacancy arising amongst the Officers or the non-Officer Executive Committee members, until the following Annual General Meeting. Any such appointee must be a member of The U3A. A person so appointed, who shall have full voting rights, may stand for appointment to a first full term at that meeting.

ix. *Co-options to Executive Committee*

The Executive Committee may in addition appoint not more than two co-opted U3A members to the Executive Committee, who shall have full voting rights and hold office until the next Annual General Meeting. At that meeting a retiring co-opted member could be proposed for appointment to a first full term on the Executive Committee in accordance with the relevant provisions of this constitution. Provided always that an individual cannot be co-opted more than three times in succession.

## 8. DEFECTS IN APPOINTMENTS

- i. The proceedings of the Executive Committee shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among their number or by any failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment, election or co-option of a member.



## 9. CESSATION OF OFFICE – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- i. A member of the Executive Committee shall cease to hold office if he or she:
  - (a) is disqualified from acting as a member of the Executive Committee by virtue of charity law;
  - (b) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;
  - (c) is absent without the permission of the Executive Committee from three consecutive meetings and the Executive Committee resolve that his or her office be vacated;
  - (d) is removed by resolution of the Executive Committee for significant misconduct under the Trustee Code of Conduct, which may only be passed after the completion of the disciplinary procedure set out in that Code;
  - (e) notifies in writing to the Executive Committee a wish to resign (but only if at least five members of the Executive Committee will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect which shall be at least 21 days from the receipt of the notification);
  - (f) ceases to be a member of The U3A;
  - (g) becomes an Officer or non-Officer member of the Executive Committee of any other U3A.

## 10. MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- i. The Executive Committee shall hold at least 4 meetings each year.
- ii. Additional meetings may be called at any time by the Secretary on behalf of the Chairperson or by any two members of the Executive Committee, upon not less than seven days' notice being given to other members of the Executive Committee of the matters to be discussed, unless it concerns the appointment of a co-opted member, in which case not less than twenty one days' notice must be given.
- iii. The Chairperson shall chair the meetings and in his or her absence a Vice-Chairperson shall take over or, if there is no Vice-Chairperson present, the Executive Committee shall choose one of their number to be Chairperson of the meeting before any business is transacted.
- iv. There shall be a quorum when at least one-third of the number of members of the Executive Committee or three members of the Executive Committee, whichever is the greater, are present at the meeting.
- v. Every decision shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members of the Executive Committee present and voting on the question, but in the case of equality of votes, the Chairperson of the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his or her own vote.
- vi. The Executive Committee shall ensure that minutes are taken of all its meetings and those of any sub-committees and are available for inspection should a member request it.
- vii. The Executive Committee may from time to time make and alter rules for the conduct of their business, the summoning and conduct of their meetings and custody of documents (including, but

not limited to, the use of electronic communications). No rule may be made which is inconsistent with this constitution.

- viii. The Executive Committee may appoint sub-committees including at least one member of the Executive Committee, for the purpose of performing any function or duty which in the opinion of the Executive Committee would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a subcommittee, provided that all acts and proceedings of any sub-committees shall be fully and promptly reported to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall authorise the terms of reference of sub-committees and may alter them from time to time. Sub-committees may make proposals to the Executive Committee, but may not make decisions and they shall not have any expenditure authority.
- ix. No Executive Committee member shall be chargeable or responsible for loss caused by any act done or omitted to be done by him or by any other Executive Committee member or by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by any Executive Committee member or by reason of any other matter other than wilful and individual fraud or wrongdoing or actions knowingly beyond the scope of a specific authority or limit thereon on the part of the Executive Committee member in question.

## **11. FINANCE**

- i. The financial year of The U3A shall end on such date as the Executive Committee shall decide in accordance with applicable charity law requirements, and the annual accounts and trustees' report must be submitted to the Charity Commission (if required by law) within relevant statutory time limits.
- ii. The funds of The U3A shall be paid into such accounts as the Executive Committee may open in the name of The U3A. All transactions on such accounts shall be carried out in accordance with the terms of that account as agreed with the account provider and approved and accepted by the Executive Committee from time to time. Only members of the Executive Committee, authorised by the Executive Committee to do so, may arrange and authorise any transaction on any of The U3A's accounts and dual authorisation shall normally be required for all transactions. iii. The Executive Committee shall determine the financial controls and procedures to be followed by The U3A including, but not limited to, controls and procedures in relation to accounts and transactions on them, and those shall be observed at all times.
- iv. The funds belonging to The U3A shall be applied only in furthering the charitable purposes.
- v. No funds shall be transferred in any way to Executive Committee members, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses incurred by a member of the Executive Committee in the discharge of his duties for The U3A.
- vi. All proper costs, charges and expenses incidental to the management of The U3A and membership subscriptions in respect of the Third Age Trust may be defrayed from the funds of The U3A.

## **12. PROPERTY**

- i. All property of and held on behalf of The U3A shall be applied in accordance with charity law.
- ii. Title to any property shall be held on behalf of The U3A in such manner as the Executive Committee thinks fit from time to time and in ways permitted by charity law.

### **13. ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING**

- i. The Executive Committee shall comply with its obligations under charity law, and observe applicable time limits in the case of obligations to file items with the Charity Commission, with regard to:
  - (a) the keeping of accounting records for The U3A;
  - (b) the preparation of annual statements of account and a trustees' report for The U3A;
  - (c) the audit or independent examination of the statements of account of The U3A (if required by law);
  - (d) the making of a charity annual return to the Charity Commission;
  - (e) the transmission of the statement of accounts and trustees' report of The U3A to the Charity Commission.

### **14. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- i. There shall be an Annual General Meeting of The U3A which shall be held on such date as the Executive Committee may determine in each calendar year.
- ii. Every Annual General Meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee. This formal notice shall give at least 21 days' notice of the Annual General Meeting to all the members of The U3A. The notice shall specify that the meeting is the Annual General Meeting and shall set out the business of the meeting, including resolutions to be proposed, and shall provide information about proposals for the election of Officers and non-Officer members of the Executive Committee to be made at that meeting. All members of The U3A shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.
- iii. The Executive Committee shall present to each Annual General Meeting the trustees' report and annual accounts of The U3A for the preceding year.
- iv. The Executive Committee shall seek approval for the appointment of any independent examiner or auditor for the accounts from the membership at the Annual General Meeting, if permitted or required to do so by charity law.
- v. Any proposals to amend the constitution subject to clause 17 shall be considered at the Annual General Meeting as shall any other business as set out in the notice.

### **15. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Executive Committee may call a Special General Meeting of The U3A at any time or if at least 10% of the members request such a meeting in writing, stating the business to be considered. The Secretary shall call such a meeting. At least 21 days' notice shall be given. The notice must state the business to be discussed.

### **16. NOTICES, COMMUNICATIONS AND PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

- i. Notices of meetings, documents and other communications from The U3A to a member may be sent by electronic communication provided The U3A wishes to do so and the relevant member wishes to receive them in this way and provides an appropriate electronic address to The U3A. It is the responsibility of that member to notify The U3A of any change to that address and to comply with any security and other procedures determined by the Executive Committee for such communications. A member may opt to return to hard copy communications at any time.

- ii. Accidental omission to give notice to any member of any General Meeting (including the AGM) shall not invalidate the proceedings.
- iii. The Secretary or other person specially appointed by the Executive Committee shall keep a full record of proceedings at every General Meeting of The U3A.
- iv. There shall be a quorum when at least 20% of the number of members of The U3A, are present at any General Meeting.
- v. If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting if convened at the request of the members shall be dissolved. In any other case it shall be adjourned to another day and time as the Executive Committee may direct provided 21 days' notice is given to all members. If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall be a quorum.
- vi. The Chairperson of The U3A shall be the Chairperson of any General Meeting at which he or she is present. In the absence of the entitled Chairperson, the Executive Committee members present shall have the power to elect a Chairperson for the meeting.
- vii. If there is a tied vote the Chairperson of the meeting has a single casting vote.

## **17. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- i. Subject to the following provisions of this clause, the Constitution may be altered in any way by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a General Meeting. The notice of the General Meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the details of the alterations proposed.
- ii. The prior consent of the Third Age Trust must be requested for any proposed alterations to The U3A's constitution. The U3A may proceed with the proposed changes:
  - (a) At any time after specific consent has been received from the Third Age Trust; or
  - (b) When four weeks have passed since the consent request was delivered and the Third Age Trust has not notified The U3A of any objection to the proposals.
- iii. If The U3A is a registered charity, no amendment may be made to clause 3 (Charitable Purpose) without the prior consent in writing of the Charity Commission.
- iv. No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making The U3A cease to be a charity at law.
- v. The Executive Committee shall ensure a copy of any amendment made under this clause is promptly sent to the Charity Commission.

## 18. DISSOLUTION

- i. If the Executive Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve The U3A it shall call a Special General Meeting of all members of The U3A, of which not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two thirds majority of those present and voting, The Executive Committee shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of The U3A. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to:
  - (a) Any one or more local U3As, which are charities and have charitable purposes similar to those of The U3A, as determined by the members of The U3A; or
  - (b) To the Third Age Trust (registered charity in England and Wales no. 288007).
- ii. A copy of the statement of accounts and relevant reports, for the final accounting period of The U3A, must be sent to the Charity Commission.